

INFOCUS East Mersea Youth Camp a big success



■ Hang on tight! There was plenty to do at the camp



■ Flying high – having fun on the zip wire and, inset, mayor Theresa Higgins gets kitted out by Katie Harding



■ Well attended – the camp proved popular with the youngsters



■ What next? So many activities had been laid on at the camp

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■ All set - Jade Robinson



Pictures: STEVE ARGENT C0109170



YOUNG people with disabilities had the chance to try out climbing, sailing, archery and a variety of other activities at a summer camp in Mersea.

The East Mersea Youth Camp, in Rewsalls Lane, hosted the Mersea Island Festival this week, which is an inclusive camp set up to bring youngsters with and without physical or learning disabilities together.

The festival co-ordinator, Phil Ager, said: "We had a really wet day on Monday, but we continued with lots of different stuff."

"It provides opportunities which a lot of the time those with disabilities aren't able to access because of people's ideas of what disabled people can do."

"It's breaking down the barriers and providing unique experiences."

"A lot of people go home feeling more confident."

The project was set up for Essex residents, but people travel from across the country, including from Newcastle and Chichester, to attend.

There are two sessions running over a two-week period, which will be attended by 260 people and 60 volunteers.



■ Clambering up - you really need a head for heights for this activity